

SITUATION REPORT NO. 13
INCIDENT NO. 96-01
DATE: July 3, 1996 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood-Devils Lake. (Separate situation reports are issued regarding flooding in the rest of the state, incident #96-37.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake on July 3, 1996, was 1,437.72 feet MSL. The lake level appeared to be decreasing slowly, but rains during the weekend of June 22-23 reversed that trend. The National Weather Service reported that inflows into Devils Lake have decreased, but remain above normal. Soil moisture also remains high in the Devils Lake Basin.

Grahams Island State Park was closed from June 25 until July 1 for emergency repairs to the park's only entrance road. Repair work had been taking place on June 25 when heavy winds and wave action from Devils Lake washed away 2,000 to 3,000 cubic yards of fill and a portion of a fabric liner that had been placed on the road slope. N.D. Parks and Recreation Department officials closed the road and moved a walleye fishing tournament scheduled for the June 29-30 weekend to Lakewood Park on Creel Bay.

Waves from Devils Lake are topping the dike near the Officers Dining Facility/Service Club at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton. The dike is at 1,439 feet MSL.

An adjoining slough has overflowed into the city of Petersburg's park in Nelson County, damaging approximately 30 to 40 trees and a six-foot high fence. A slough in southeast Petersburg is also overflowing, threatening a lift station and flooding a street.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: State Flood Coordination Center meetings were conducted in Devils Lake, June 13 and 27, 1996.

Four counties have been added to the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, bringing the total number of counties to 33 for FEMA-1118-DR-ND. The counties that were added are: Burleigh, Grant, Morton, and Sargent.

The FEMA/State agreement for FEMA-Dr-1118-ND was signed June 21 by Governor Schafer and Mike Armstrong, FEMA Regional Director. The incident period for the disaster declaration extends from March 12 to June 21. The incident period is the time frame in which damages must have occurred to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

A State/Federal Disaster Field Office has been established in the upper level of the Exhibition Hall at the Bismarck Civic Center. The telephone number is (701) 221-3360 and the fax number is (701) 221-3377.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and North Dakota Emergency Management have 29 teams completing Damage Survey Reports of damaged sites in the 33 declared counties.

City of Devils Lake officials have asked Governor Schafer to submit a request under Public Law 84-99 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to implement protective measures to increase the city's lake protection to 1450 feet MSL. City officials also requested state officials to fund 15% of the project.

Grahams Island State Park was reopened on July 1 after grading work was completed to the park's only entrance road. Construction workers also placed fabric liner and rip-rap on the inslope. Because repair work is continuing, traffic has been reduced to one lane for one-third of a mile. Parks and Recreation Department officials are asking park visitors to be patient with road work and to heed the directions of the flagging personnel.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) has several road repair efforts underway in the Devils Lake area. They include:

- Grading and rip-rap replacement work on U.S. Highway 281, north of Minnewaukan.
- Placement of an embankment and rip-rap on N.D. Highway 1, near Stump Lake, where water driven by high winds has caused road damages.
- Bridge replacement and grade work on N.D. Highway 19 at the Mauvais Coulee crossing. Work is scheduled to be completed in mid-July.
- Replacement of rip-rap at the junction of U.S. Highway 281 and N.D. Highway 19. Work is scheduled to be completed by July 6.
- Rip-rap repairs on N.D. Highway 57, which was damaged due to high winds on Devils Lake.

Construction workers completed repairs to the south bridge approach on N.D. Highway 57 at the Narrows. The road was closed from June 24 to 29 during which time Fort Totten officials worked with N.D. DOT officials to ensure access for emergency services.

Because of safety concerns, the N.D. Highway Patrol has been issuing citations to people who are parking and/or fishing in Devils Lake from roadways and bridges.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department reported that a concrete boat ramp and road on East Bay

have been raised to 1,440 feet MSL. Other work includes placement of gravel on the parking lot, and rip-rap along the parking lot's perimeter.

A temporary metal boat ramp was installed by the Game and Fish Department at Grahams Island State Park while the Parks and Recreation Department raised its concrete boat ramp four feet to 1,440 feet MSL.

The city of Minnewaukan has installed a temporary boat ramp south of the Benson County Fairgrounds. The Minnewaukan Community Club has placed directional signs leading to the ramp.

The N.D. State Water Commission has developed its 1996 Devils Lake Hazard Identification Map, which lists the locations of such hazards as submerged trees, roads, boat ramps, fences, rocks, brushes, concrete slabs and chain link fences. Copies can be obtained from the State Water Commission, anglers' groups and county auditors' offices.

The Devils Lakes Sioux Tribe officials reported that they moved five homes, and U.S. Housing and Urban Development moved 23 homes from floodplain areas. Tribal officials have contracted with AmeriCorp to identify abandoned wells that will need to be capped to prevent the possibility of flood water causing drinking water to be contaminated.

The USACE has completed protection of a lift station and two sewer manholes to 1,439.50 feet MSL in the Stromme Addition.

Of the 132 claims that have been filed under a waiver of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), 85 claims to remove structures from the floodplain were resolved. Another 15 claims for demolition of structures or for dike construction reimbursement were also settled. Twelve claims are still being processed, and 20 did not qualify. Insurers who have purchased flood insurance on or before March 26 qualify for the waiver, which includes a suspension of the 90-day waiting period.

The Nelson County Extension Office has distributed approximately 30 water-testing kits used to determine water well contamination.

A public health nurse is working with Nelson County officials to monitor proliferation of mosquitoes.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held July 11 at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

The International Red River Pollution Board will meet at 1 p.m. July 9 at the Sivert Thompson Activity Center at Grahams Island State Park. The board will discuss water management in the Devils Lake Basin.

Signed _____

Douglas C. Friez, State Director

